

BREAKOUT SESSION - GROUP 1 SUMMARY

Moderator: Ira Rubenstein - Environmental Business Association

Rapporteur: Ann Reisman - Brookhaven National Laboratory

- Mr. Eric H Bauman Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Mr. A. Christopher Gross KeySpan Energy
- Mr. Armen Nishanian Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
- Ms. Janet Joseph New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Ms. Meredith Laureno New York City Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Mr. Michael J Calaban New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- Dr. Douglas Hill Douglas Hill, P.E., P.C.
- Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig Columbia University

The participants concluded that energy-water nexus issues for southeastern New York were heavily influenced by

- a dense urban population in an older city with aging infrastructure
- deregulation of electricity
- lack of integrated planning among those responsible for water quality and quantity and those responsible for energy supply and demand

Issues

- The dense urban population setting in New York City and much of the Northeastern U.S. impacts energy-water issues
 - Power plant siting is difficult
 - Little land is available
 - NIMBY ('not in my back yard') concerns are intensified
 - Strict environmental regulations are in place
 - Wastewater treatment facility siting is difficult
 - Heavy storm drainage taxes water-treatment facilities
 - Dense population precludes easy solutions
 - Water quality of rivers providing water to New York City and surrounding Manhattan is affected by heavy nutrient loading
 - Human health depends on energy and water from outside New York City
 - Energy and water security are major issues
 - The water supply from surface waters and aging aqueducts is vulnerable and hard to protect
 - The electricity grid is susceptible to blackouts from outside causes
- The New York region relies on an aging infrastructure

- Water distribution system is over a century old
 - There are major leaks in conduits to New York City
 - The steam district heating system is aging
 - Difficult to meter and charge
 - The region contains many energy-inefficient buildings
 - There is an outdated price structure for water and energy
- Electricity deregulation has hampered long-term electricity planning
 - Integrated long-term planning among distributors and generators of electricity is minimal
 - The present focus is on the short-term to intermediate-term planning horizon.
 - There is little incentive to plan with other stakeholders
 - There is a lack of integrated planning for energy and water together
 - The assumption is that water will always be available for energy
 - The assumption is that energy will always be available for water

Ideas proposed:

- Work toward integrated energy-water planning
 - Promote networking among stakeholders
 - Institute a long-term planning program in New York
 - Include climate change
 - Pay explicit attention to energy-water interactions
 - Develop decision-making tools
 - Incorporate multi-state planning
 - e.g. the Great Lakes-Ten State Planning Commission
- Reduce demand for energy and water
 - Identify techniques to repair breaks in water conduits and steam pipes
 - Re-examine historical prices for water and energy to customers and adjust to encourage conservation
 - Develop incentives for using gray water in place of clean freshwater where possible
 - Encourage multiple sources for electricity production
 - Distributed generation
 - Cogeneration
 - Moving water in fresh water conduits
- Examine financial market incentives
 - Sarbanes-Oxley Act regarding liability and disclosure

- Force examination of water and energy issues in the long term
- Identify regionally relevant pilot demonstrations
 - Use of gray water for power plant cooling
 - Advanced clean power generation
 - Cooling for power plants that protects fish